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NURSES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS. By Alfred Worcester, A.M., M.D., Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society; Member of the Obstetrical Society of Boston; Ex-President of the Harvard Medical School Alumni Association; President of the Waltham Training School for Nurses; Chief of Maternity Service, Waltham Hospital; Consulting Physician Elliot City Hospital, Keene, New Hampshire. Price \$1.25. Houghton, Mifflin Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge, Boston and New York.

Dr. Worcester, who is chief of the Maternity Service of Waltham Hospital and President of the Waltham Training School for Nurses, gives us a most readable book in his *Nurses for Our Neighbors*. It is retrospective and his backward look over a long life of service to the sick of all classes but particularly of the poorer and more dependent, gives us a charming picture of high ideals preserved amid the hardness and ugliness incident to service in hospital work. Many experiences are related that reveal the intensely sympathetic and tenderhearted friend that lies concealed in almost every medical man and which goes to show how almost limitless must be the measure of charity that is necessary for the medical man whose practice calls him to the hospital wards in the poorer industrial centers of the country.

Dr. Worcester arraigns the modern nursing methods and criticises present day nurses with a good deal of severity. In the comparison of present times with other times, the nursing of the day does not appear to advantage. It is well to remember, however, that if the nurse of today is more scientific than sympathetic, she is a very great improvement on the combination of ignorance and immorality that may also be found if one searches the past. We are inclined to agree with Dr. Worcester that the nurses encountered in hospital wards today often seem to lack sympathy, the reason for which seems to be in the youth of the nurses. Young people generally seem to be intolerant of weakness in all forms. They foster a sort of hardness which inevitably melts before the experiences of life that come soon enough to most. It is this hardness and lack of sentiment which Dr. Worcester deplores in the probationer of today. I wonder how many women whose business is to train and develop the character of these young probationers will agree with him.

One feels tempted to ask why the scientific nurse should be in so much greater danger of becoming a heartless machine than the scientific surgeon or physician. Modern discoveries in medicine and surgery are supposed to alleviate, in great measure, the sufferings of humanity. We hope that our newer and more thorough training may produce better and abler nurses.